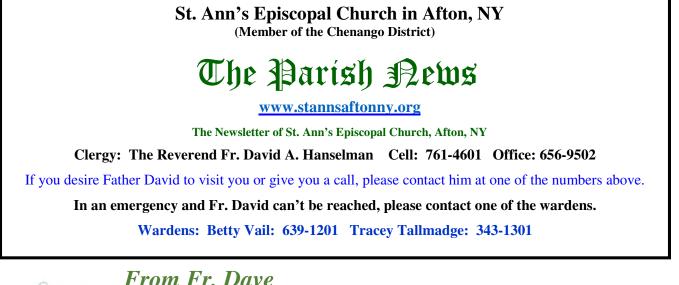
Sharing God's Love in Our Community Through Prayer, Study and Action





Welcome September!

Last month I began introducing the book (and vision) that our diocese will be focusing on at Annual Convention and working through in the months and years to come - Dwight

Zscheile's The Agile Church.

First and foremost, it seems to me at least, the message of the book is - Listen! Listen for the spiritual longing of our neighbors. Listen for the spiritual longing within yourself. Listen for the hunger and need that only Jesus Christ can fulfill. Now, this is not a foolproof method of increasing membership, but it is a dependable way of insuring that we are being faithful Christians.

A particularly difficult message within the book is to not worry too much about failure. Trying different things and failing is **not** seen as such a very bad thing. That is, if it's done well.

Mr Zscheile uses the example of Silicon Valley throughout his book and calls upon work done by Ronald Heifetz and Marty Linsky distinguishing between technical problems and adaptive challenges (p. 60). Technical problems have solutions that simply need to be applied. Adaptive challenges, on the other hand, is what Silicon Valley - and the church! - are faced with. Appropriately engaging the community we find ourselves in; especially as that community undergoes changes - that is the basis of the adaptive challenges we are faced with.

Adaptive challenges inevitably result in many more failed experiments than successful breakthroughs. One key, however, is to make sure all our resources (and hopes) aren't placed in one grand experiment. Rather, it's a matter of many small experiments (and failures) and the reflections and adjustments that occur going forward into new experiments.

For this month, let me leave you with one (of many possible) excellent comments from The Agile Church: "The church has been given the gift of the greatest vision in human history - the kingdom or reign of God as announced and embodied in Jesus. That is our guiding vision, and it must be articulated and interpreted constantly in the church's life." We are called to be a part of God's work in this world. Amen.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO SERVE

<u>Note to all who serve</u>: It would be most helpful if, when you cannot make your assigned date, you would arrange for a substitute. If you are unable to do that, please notify a warden. Thanks for your cooperation!

			Service Schedul	le		
Date	Service	OT Reader	Epistle Reader	CS	EM	Acolytes
Sept 3	HC	C.Tarvin	J.Rettberg	BV	JR	B.Vail
Sept 10	MP	C.Cimini	C.Tarvin	AC		A.Cimini
Sept 17	HC	P.Tucker	D.Vail	DV	BV	B.Vail/A.Vail
Sept 24	MP	B.Vail	R.Felldin	RF		B.Vail
Oct 1	HC	A.Wieber	C.Tarvin	JR	DW	D.Wieber/B.Vail
Church School		Morning Prayer		Food Pantry		
Sept 10	R.Felldin	Sept 10	T.Vail/D.Vail	Sept 11	Pat & Al Tucker	
Sept 17	T.Vail			Sept 13	R.Felldin & J.Seacat	
Sept 24	K.Vail	Sept 24	R.Felldin/B.Vail			
			Lectionary (Year A	.)		
Date	Service	OT Reading	Psalm	Epistle Reading	Gospel Reading	
Sept 3		Exodus	Psalm 105:1-6,	Romans	Matthew 16:21-28	
		3:1-15	23-26, 45b	12:9-21		
Sep 10		Exodus	Psalm 149	Romans	Mattl	new 18:15-20
		12:1-14		13:8-14		
Sep 17		Exodus	Psalm 114	Romans	Mattl	new 18:21-35
		14:19-31		14:1-12		
Sep 24		Exodus	Psalm 105:1-6,	Philippians	Matth	new 20:1-16
		16:2-15	37-45	1:21-30		
Oct 1		Exodus	Psalm 78:1-4,	Philippians	Mattl	new 21:23-32
		17:1-7	12-16	2:1-13	1	

Altar Duty for the month of September is Pat Tucker 639-1984. If you are giving flowers in memory a loved one, please notify Peter Vail 607-639-1444 no later than the Thursday before the designated Sunday so that he can include a notice in the bulletin.



The Annual Church meeting will be held on October 1st, beginning at service time and continuing during coffee hour.

<u>CHURCH SCHOOL WILL BEGIN SEPTEMBER 10TH. ALL CHILDREN ARE</u> <u>WELCOME TO ATTEND.</u>

You have heard of Friday, Saturday and Sunday....but what about S'mores-day?? We are planning to have our first annual S'mores day for our children on Sunday, September 10th during coffee hour. Be sure to have your kids attend that day and maybe even bring some friends! The children (with adult supervision) will be able to toast marshmallows on a campfire outside and make their own s'mores as a special treat. We can't wait for S'more fun!! Thank you to Mr. Kane for the great idea and for supplying the ingredients!





St. Ann's Prayer List for September 2017

It has been suggested that the names of individuals on the parish prayer list be included in the newsletter. A current listing follows. The names listed are not necessarily members of the parish and may include individuals or other requests for which we have been asked to pray. The clergy persons of the Chenango District are included. Please remember these individuals in your personal prayers. Send or give any additions or changes to Tom Vail, 639-1201. <u>Please note: Long term names will be left on the list indefinitely, short term names for two months unless updated.</u>

Long Term	Fr. David Hanselman
Carol	Fr. Steven White
Peter	Fr. Bruce MacDuffie
Joyce	Deacon Kay
Муа	Pastor Becky
Holly	Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe
Cindy	Bishop Michael Curry
Lois	The Revs Ralph & Liz Groskoph
Clifford	Emmanuel Church
Richard	Epiphany Church
Bill	Zion Church
Elliott	St. Paul's Church
Kevin	St. Andrew's Church
Connie	St. Matthew's Church
Eli	St. Peter's Church
	Short Term
	Pastor Sue Patrick Duane
	Marsey Evelyn
	Marion Hailey
	Dakota Dianne
	Wayne

The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Divinity School. The Rector search for Emanuel, St. Andrew's & St. Matthew's churches. The following prayer is from the Evening Prayer service in the Book of Common Prayer:

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those whosleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, sooth the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous: and all for your love's sake. Amen.



NO MEETING HELD IN AUGUST

WILL RESUME SEPTEMBER 17, 2017



September Celebrations



9/15 Father Ralph

9/16 Cindy Johnson 9/19 Calvin Tallmadge 9/26 Denise Wieber



9/22 Milton & Marisa Harding 9/30 Tom & Betty Vail



On August 20th. St. Ann's welcomed Maxwell Royston Harding as the newest member of Christ's flock at St.Ann's. Maxwell is the son of Milton and Marissa Harding.

"Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks that in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism you have provided the way for us to become part of the humanity you perfected by becoming incarnate. Help us to rejoice in the new life we have in you. Help us to nourish that life and keep it strong; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. AMEN"

WHY CHURCH?

The Rev. David Meginniss

Why do we have church? Is it for God's sake? Clearly, the answer is "no." When King David first wanted to build a temple, God reminded him that God never asked for a "house"; God does not need any earthly dwelling. And when Solomon finally built the temple, in his wisdom he acknowledged to God, "The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!"

Solomon knew it is not for God's sake, but for humans' sake that we build places of worship. Solomon prayed that God would bless the temple to serve as a place where God's people could pray, ask for help, guidance, or forgiveness, and where they could celebrate their relationship to God. The problem is, most people were not as wise as Solomon. Although they didn't want to admit it, they lived as if they believed God was contained within the temple, and never left it. If they needed God's help, they would come "visit God" at the temple, but the rest of the time they went around as if God couldn't see what they were doing. They liked to point at the temple and say how beautiful it was and how important they were to have God's presence in their midst, but it didn't really affect their day to day lives. Through the prophet Jeremiah, God told the people of Israel that if they didn't shape up, God might just quit listening to their prayers altogether.

These days, we're not limited to a single Temple. We've got churches all over the place. They come in all kinds of flavors, like ice cream. They use different worship styles, different versions of the Bible, different customs, and different forms of church government. But what was true about the temple is true for all of these churches.

First, none exist for God's sake. God is not contained in any of them. We need them because we have trouble focusing. God is all around us and in us and through us, and yet we need sacred spaces where we can help our restless bodies and souls be still in God's presence. We also need a meeting place where we can come together as God's people. No Christian should try to be a Christian in isolation. Jesus gave us the gift of the Church to be his very Body. The building is not the Church, but the building gives the Church a place to meet. Second, the church building does us absolutely no good if we're not in it. I suspect a lot of folks are proud to have such a beautiful place to call their church home, and that's good, but I also suspect there are some who are proud to say they belong to a particular church because they think it makes them important. That's not so good. Our church building is only meaningful, it is only important, it only has a reason to exist if it strengthens our relationship to God. It needs to affect our lives by giving us the strength, the resources, the energy, the enthusiasm, and the mutual support to go out and serve God in the world. We need to come to church to help us remember that God is with us wherever we are, whatever we're doing. We need to deepen our understanding about God and give each other mutual support and encouragement. We need to meet as a Church, so we can be the Church.

God gave us the Church for our sakes. The least we can do is be grateful enough to use it!



The following are from The JoyfulNoiseletter with permission





Smile

Card passed out by JN Subscriber Virgil K. Hawn, Shelbyville, IN:

- A smile is something nice to see It doesn't cost a cent.
- A smile is something all your own. It never can be spent.
- A smile is welcome anywhere It does away with frowns. A smile is good for everyone
- To ease life's ups and downs.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



"Guardian Angels watch over us so God can work on more important stuff." from JoyfulNoiseletter.com Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane The Final Word

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ... (The commandments) are summed up in this word, "love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. From Romans 13:8, 9b - 10

Here, in the Second Lesson for 12 Pentecost, is more of St. Paul's guidance for hristian living that we can apply to our own lives without interpretation or translation. Once again, it can be helpful to hear Paul's words translated into contemporary (today's) language. Following is the whole passage from Romans as translated by Eugene H. Peterson in The MESSAGE

"Don't run up debts, except for the huge debt of love you owe each other. When you love others, you complete what the law has been after all along. The law code —

don't sleep with another person's spouse, don't take someone's life, don't take what isn't yours, don't always be wanting what you don't have, and any other "don't" you can think of — finally adds up to this: Love other people as well as you do yourself."

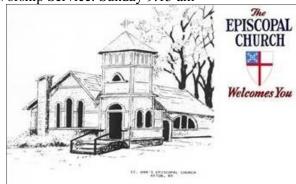
You can't go wrong when you love others. When you add up everything in the law code, the sum total is love. But make sure that you don't get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day by - day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God. The night is about over, dawn is about to break. Be up and awake to what God is doing! God is putting the finishing touches on the alvation work he began when we first believed. We can't afford to waste a minute, must not squander these precious daylight hours in frivolity and indulgence, in sleeping around and dissipation, in bickering and grabbing everything in sight. Get out of bed and get dressed! Don't loiter and linger, waiting until the last minute. Dress yourselves in Christ, and be up and about!" Does this speak to you? Try reading it several times and then listen for what God may be saying to you. You may be surprised! PCV

St. Ann's Episcopal Church P. O. Box 22 Afton, New York 13730

SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH PRAYER. STUDY AND ACTION

Clergy: The Rev. David A. Hanselman Wardens: Betty Vail Tracey Tallmadge

Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am



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